

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAMOURE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSONER
MEETING-June 5, 2018**

At approximately 8:30 a.m. Chairman Bruce Klein called the meeting to order and opened with the pledge to the flag. Commissioners Bob Flath, Keith Heidinger, Victor Weigel, and Lee Miller were also present. Also attending were Jan Hamlin, Auditor; Tonya Duffy, State's Attorney; Karin Boom, Acting Secretary; Joshua Loegering, County Highway Superintendent; Cindy Worrel, Treasurer; Denice Porter, Tax Director; Patty Wood-Bartle, Edgeley Mail; and Gerald Harris, LaMoure Chronicle.

Chairman Klein asked for additions to the agenda. Additions to the agenda included Memorial Park, Kulm property, and election update. A motion was made by Comm Miller to approve the agenda and the additions, seconded by Comm Weigel. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Comm Miller to approve the minutes for the May 15, 2018 meeting, seconded by Comm Heidinger. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Comm Heidinger to approve Social Service bills, seconded by Comm Weigel. Motion carried.

Josh Loegering reported road activities to the board. The second round of blading is nearly complete with the third round starting soon. Gravel has been added where needed. Projects on CR34 and CR35 will be starting soon. They have been pulling shoulders and adding three inches of gravel to CR35 to meet the load limit of 105,500. This will use up the remaining \$100,000 from the grant funds for those projects. The fence at the communication tower is completed. The Township Gas Tax Report is ready to submit by the July 1 deadline. Two townships did not report, but past figures were used to prepare it. A motion was made by Comm Heidinger to approve the Gas Tax Report as presented, seconded by Comm Weigel. Motion carried. The culvert on the Merricourt road is completed. There was discussion on culvert bids regarding Contex not fulfilling the bid terms on delivery and raising the price. Bids were reviewed and the True North bid was the same which made them the current successful bidder. They are able to deliver on time. Loegering has three applications for seasonal full-time position. He and a portfolio commissioner will be conducting two interviews. This position would reduce one or two seasonal positions and is covered by the budget.

Update on the 'Brunsman Bridge' pricing estimates was \$65,000 to replace SW caisson and stringers, \$110,000 to replace all 4 caissons. Engineering costs would be an additional \$40,000-50,000. This is not eligible for Federal funding because of its proximity to other bridges. If it is not repaired, it will have to be closed. The discussion was tabled for the next meeting to get more information. The removal of a recently closed bridge will cost about \$4,000. There is interest in purchasing the bridge. It will be put up on bids and stipulated that it will not be used as a public crossing in the future. The repair for the bridge south of Jud is not in this year's budget. A double 7x10 box culvert will cost about \$115,000. It will be added to the 2019 budget.

Crack sealing and leveling is underway. Two crews are working and not using flaggers. When leveling, that portion of the road is closed with a detour from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for safety purposes. Crack sealing is done on one side at a time and the road is not closed. Crack sealing is focusing on new pavement, but should be done every year on every road. The crack leveler equipment has been rented at the cost of \$6,000 per month for two months each year. The equipment was purchased because the machine will pay for itself immediately. There is a possibility of renting to another county when it is not being used. A one mile test section of double chip sealing will be done this year. Reportedly, it will preserve the road surface to a degree equivalent to an asphalt overlay. If the test section performs as hoped, ten miles per year will be done in the future.

Treasurer Cindy Worrel brought abatement requests to the board. Tom Glandt & Carly Rott had been given a five year, graduated exemption of \$100%, then decreasing for 5 years. A refund of \$896.08 will be given on that exemption. Ronald and Diane Schmidt will be given 80% Homestead Credit. A mobile home was also condemned and moved resulting in no value. Abatements are a \$985.45 revenue loss. A motion was made by Comm Miller to approve the abatements presented, seconded by Comm Flath. Motion carried.

Comm Weigel discussed the staffing at Memorial Park for the summer. Some maintenance of equipment is needed and the board agreed that if the budgeted funds cover hiring a person who has done it before, then it would be fine to do so again. Sunday will be a dedication service for the Country Church building at the Museum in the park.

Comm Heidinger discussed the tax sale of a half lot in Kulm. Ms. Duffy said if it has been held by the county for more than three months and there are no liens, it can be sold for the amount owed.

Tax Director Denice Porter brought a list of 29 properties to adjust amounts of true and full value. The townships or cities have already reviewed and approved the adjustments. A motion was made by Comm Miller to approve the true and full value assessment report, seconded by Comm Weigel. Motion carried.

Auditor Jan Hamlin gave an election update. As of today, 896 absentee ballots were requested and 592 have been returned. The set-up crew and election workers are in place and Hamlin will attend training update in Jamestown. The poll books will be done on Monday. There are about 2,400 eligible voters in the county. She also gave an update on the employee poll on the current health insurance.

Comm Flath reported that the DOT grant request for Sunset Park in LaMoure was denied or not funded.

The meeting recessed from 10:00 to 11:30 for the Tax Equalization meeting in the courthouse basement conference room.

June 5, 2018 Tax Equalization Meeting

Present: Commissioners, Klein, Heidinger, Flath, Miller, Weigel; Denice Porter, Luanne Slykerman and Deb Kindelspire of the office of Tax Director; Tonya Duffy, State's Attorney; Jan Hamlin, Auditor; Karin Boom, Acting Secretary; Patty Wood Bartle, Edgeley Mail; Gerald Harris, LaMoure Chronicle and citizen representatives, Craig Good, Art Hagebock, Angie Haakenson-Hanson

Chairman Klein called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. - a quorum was verified.

Craig Good, Mayor of LaMoure brought a request from the City Council regarding a proposed reduction of 20% on the property tax rate for businesses and an adjusted rate of 50 cents per square foot for commercial lots. The taxes on commercial properties in the city are so high that some businesses may close if adjustments are not made. Tax Director Denice Porter said that commercial rates are at 123.2% on the new report. State Equalization Board can adjust rates to between 90-100%. Good said lots are selling for \$500-1500 and the new valuations set those values at \$5200-5400. Comm Flath said that recent sales information would support reductions in values. Those numbers would be necessary to support the changes. Flath discussed reductions on a percentage basis. Criteria for establishing values have been used in making the current determinations and using a percentage reduction would keep the criteria intact and still reduce the totals. Comm Klein said that his understanding of the language in the Century Code is that only cities and townships that have made requests for adjustment can be adjusted at this meeting. Only LaMoure had made a request to the Equalization Board. Comm Flath stated that farm values have been adjusted by the board every year to around 92% at the State Equalization Board meeting so there is a precedent for across-the-board adjustments by this board. He proposed a 70% reduction in lot value reduction and 25% reduction in commercial valuations. If the valuations are not in the 90-100% range, the State Equalization Board will adjust them accordingly so there is a safety net. State's Attorney Tonya Duffy reviewed the language in the code and agreed that a percentage reduction could be applied to a blanket reduction of an entire classification of property. The question is whether empty lots and commercial property is grouped. In the discussion between the tax director and the board it appeared that they are probably grouped as they are not in the farmland or residential groups. Tax Director Porter agreed with reducing valuations to reflect the current market values in sales.

A motion was made by Comm Flath to reduce commercial lots and acreage by 70% and all other commercial values by 25%, seconded by Comm Weigel. Roll call vote: Weigel, yes; Heidinger no; Klein, yes; Miller no; Flath, yes. Motion passed on a 3 to 2 vote in favor of the motion.

Angie Haakenson-Hanson also requested a property re-evaluation. She informed the board that she had received notice of the meeting only one day ago. The notice had been mailed on May 22nd and the

address was wrong. The tax statement went to the right address, so she questioned where the wrong address came from. Her property in Saratoga went from a valuation of \$17,430 in 2017 to \$107,930 in 2018. The house was built in 1948 and remodeled in 2006. It has not been a commercial property since 2013. Tax Director Porter explained that when the property was last assessed it was discovered that only the acreage had been listed in the valuation, not any of the buildings. The building on the site is categorized as a commercial structure, not as a commercial business. The meeting today was also noticed by publication. Hanson asked the board for one more year at the 2017 valuation and then reassess for next year. Her new married name and address will be provided as well. Porter agreed that this would be an acceptable process and Comm Klein said that because of the notice issue and with the agreement of Porter, the proposal for another year to complete the reassessment would be granted.

A motion was made by Comm Heidinger to adjourn, seconded by Comm Flath and the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Klein at 11:31am.

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 11:35 a.m. in the Commissioner Room.

The bills were reviewed. A motion was made by Comm Heidinger to pay the bills presented, seconded by Comm Flath. Motion carried.

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
ALLIED ENERGY	99.99
AT&T MOBILITY	21.63
BARNES RURAL WATER DISTRICT	52.00
BERUBE'S	33.08
BORDER STATES ELECTRIC SUPPLY	252.58
BROCK WHITE CO LLC	1,059.76
BUCKEYE/DIANE	137.99
CASS COOUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT	56.00
CENTRAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC	72.31
CHS NORTHERN PLAINS	480.00
CITY OF KULM	75.04
CITY VIEW FUEL	78.78
COMPUTER EXPRESS	4,241.98
COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS UNLIMITED INC	1,183.80
CONTECH ENGINEERED SOLUTIONS, LLC	14,130.00
D & B PORTABLES LLC	325.00
DACOTAH PAPER CO.	124.30
DAKOTA CARRIER NETWORK	875.00
DAKOTA COUNTRY TRUCKS L. L. C.	279.65
DAKOTA PERFORMANCE & ACCESSORIES	95.00
DATHE CONSTRUCTION	2,280.00
DELABARRE/BETH	63.22
DENISON/HAYLEE	45.78
DICKEY RURAL COMMUNICATIONS	807.00
DUFFY LAW OFFICE	2,173.94
DUFFY/JESSICA	276.76
ECOLAB PEST ELIMINATION DIV	165.21
EDGELEY MAIL	1,632.69
FARGO PARTS & EQUIPMENT INC	120.70
FIRST STATE BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA	560.00
GATES/VIKKI	378.78
GENERAL EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES	1,423.98
GLAXOSMITHKLINE PHARMACEUTICALS	1,680.02
GOOD OIL COMPANY	32,072.32
GREEN IRON EQUIPMENT	69.69
HARMON/HAYDN	175.00
HARMSSEN'S GREENHOUSE	150.50
HENRY SCHEIN	373.69
HI-WAY SERVICENTER, INC	108.70
HOMAN/CAROLINE	138.71
HWY. 13 ONE-STOP SHOP, INC	226.94
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT	26.50
JAMESTOWN COMMUNICATIONS	2,334.25
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	86.38
KINDELSPIRE/DEB	29.43
KLUG/ASHLEY	330.42

KULM MESSENGER	1,263.24
LAMOURE CHRONICLE	162.00
LAMOURE CITY	153.98
LAMOURE DRUG STORE	48.74
LAMOURE HARDWARE	528.67
LAMOURE PARTS CENTER	628.42
LAMOURE POSTMASTER	536.00
LAMOURE PRINTING COMPANY	327.50
LARSON GRAIN CO	3.23
LEAF	121.00
LOEGERING/ROGER	59.80
LOOMER/DANIEL	30.00
MAC'S INC	50.29
MARQUART/ANDREW S.	173.71
MCLEAN/ANNA	27.69
MIDSTATES EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY	53,836.95
MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES	40.79
MURPHY/JENNIFER	171.13
NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL & SAFETY SUPPLY	542.52
NATIONAL SHERIFF'S ASSOC	60.00
ND DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION	11,594.90
ND STATE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS	180.00
NDEMA	90.00
NK OIL LLC	7,585.22
NORTHERN PLAINS COOP - ASHLEY FEED STORE	480.00
OST BODY & PAINT	4,976.27
OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY	2,558.92
PACWEST TOOL AND SAFETY	766.92
PORTER/DENICE	29.43
PURCHASE POWER	5,045.00
QUILL CORPORATION	248.24
RACINE/JULIANNE	300.30
SANDNESS/STACEE	118.81
SANFORD HEALTHCARE ACCESSORIES LLC	332.85
ST ROSE CARE CENTER	18,237.44
STUTSMAN COUNTY AUDITOR	228.00
STUTSMAN RURAL WATER DISTRICT	48.50
SWANSTON EQUIPMENT CORPORATION	146.69
TACTICAL ADVANTAGE LLC	942.50
VERIZON WIRELESS	265.84
VISA	1,611.10
VOIGHTMAN/STEPHANIE	67.58
W.D. LARSON COMPANIES LTD INC	133.03
WAGNER/JESSICA	464.58
WARCKEN/BILLI	102.46
WASTE MANAGEMENT	352.74
WORREL/CINDY	55.59
3D SPECIALTIES	984.67

The regular meeting adjourned. 11:40am.

APPROVED THIS 19th DAY OF JUNE, 2018

BRUCE KLEIN, Chairman

ATTEST:

JANICE HAMLIN, County Auditor